Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.-10. (Canceled)

11. (Amended) A method of processing a series of articles, comprising:

(a) ~~manually~~ positioning an imager relative to each article so that the surface of the article with information thereon can be captured;

(b) then capturing the surface of the article with information thereon with the imager;

(c) using a computer to determine selected data from the signal received from the imager;

(d) using a computer to correlate the data to elements of a corresponding database; and

(e) taking an action in accordance with a processing scheme based on the results of steps (a)-(d).

12. (Canceled)

13. (New) The method of claim 11, wherein the series of articles comprises a batch of mail pieces.

2

14. (New) The method of claim 13, wherein step (c) further comprises using a computer to determine address data from the signal received from the imager.

15. (New) The method of claim 14, wherein step (e) comprises taking an action in accordance with a postal processing scheme, which action is a first one of a series of events that will result in delivery of the mail piece to a destination point that corresponds to the address data.

16. (New) The method of claim 15, wherein step (e) comprises printing a postal bar code label for the mail piece, which bar code corresponds to an address identified by the computer and then applying the bar code label to the mail piece.

17. (New) The method of claim 14, wherein step (e) further comprises:

if an address cannot be determined with sufficient specificity in step (c), assigning an identification code to the mail piece; and

saving the image and identification code associated therewith in a computer accessible form for resolution at a later time.

18. (New) The method of claim 17, wherein step (e) further comprises labeling the mail piece with an identification code in a machine scannable form.

19. (New) The method of claim 18, wherein step (e) further comprises:

feeding the labeled mail piece image into a video coding system;

capturing and reading the identification code of the labeled mail piece;

displaying the image associated with read identification code on a video screen;

manually entering address information associated with the displayed mail piece into a

video coding computer; and

applying a postal delivery bar code to the mail piece, which bar code corresponds to the

address information entered into the video coding computer.

20. (New) The method of claim 18, wherein the identification code is an existing feature

that appears on the mail piece and can be identified by being captured and read.

21. (New) The method of claim 11, wherein the imager is manually positionable to

capture articles proximate the imager.

22. (New) The method of claim 21, wherein the imager is a hand-held capture device.

23. (New) The method of claim 13, wherein the method further comprises the steps of:

sorting mail pieces from the batch using an automated sorting system that scans each mail

piece and sorts it to a destination bin based on the results of the scan; and

taking non-machinable mail pieces from the batch which cannot be sorted using the

automated sorting system and performing steps (a)-(d) on the non-machinable mail pieces.

4

24. (New) A system for processing a series of articles, comprising:

means for capturing the surface of an article with information thereon and transmitting a signal;

means for positioning the capturing means relative to each article so that the surface of the article with information thereon can be captured;

means for using a computer to determine selected data from the signal received from the capturing means;

means for using a computer to correlate the data to elements of a corresponding database; and

means for taking an action in accordance with a processing scheme based on the functions performed by the system.

25. (New) The system of claim 24, wherein the series of articles comprises a batch of mail pieces and the processing scheme comprises a postal processing scheme, including a series of events that will result in delivery of the mail piece to a destination point that corresponds to an address captured from a mail piece.

26. (New) The system of claim 25, wherein the capturing means comprises an imager.

27. (New) The system of claim 25, wherein the means for using a computer to determine selected data from the signal received from the capturing means comprises image analysis program logic.

28. (New) The system of claim 25, wherein the means for using a computer to determine selected data from the signal received from the capturing means comprises binarization program logic.

29. (New) The system of claim 25, further comprising a computer implemented address interpreter that interfaces with a national address database for matching partial address information from a mail piece with valid destination addresses.

30. (New) The system of claim 25, further comprising means for displaying image data captured from the mail piece.

31. (New) The system of claim 25, wherein the means for taking an action in accordance with a processing scheme comprises a label printer that prints a postal bar code corresponding to the address captured from the mail piece.